



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 205654-

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kovesdi et al.

Application No. 09/832,355

Filed: April 10, 2001

For: VEGF FUSION PROTEINS

Art Unit: 1647

Examiner: Spector, L.

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 23, 2002, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace paragraph [0041] with:

A¹
The VEGF peptide portion also desirably exhibits low affinity for neuropilin-1, neuropilin-2, or both. Preferably, the VEGF peptide portion exhibits an affinity for either or both neuropilins or related proteins (analogs or variants), e.g., marked by a dissociation constant of at least 1,000 pM, more preferably at least 10,000 pM. Ideally, the VEGF peptide portion exhibits an affinity for neuropilin-1 and neuropilin-2 equal to, or less than, the affinity exhibited by VEGF₁₂₁ (i.e., no apparent affinity). By exhibiting low affinity, or, more preferably, by not binding neuropilins whatsoever, the VEGF peptide portion can avoid undesired interactions which reduce the amount of binding to therapeutic receptors of interest (e.g., the KDR receptor) and avoids interaction with neuropilin-associated tumor cells.

Replace paragraph [0057] with:

A²
More preferably, the second peptide portion comprises KAP, Ang-1, or an angiogenic fragment of either peptide (preferably a fragment which binds the TIE-2 receptor).

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